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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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Christian Paul Klein

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FISH & RICHARDSON P.C.
P.O. BOX 1022
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55440-1022

EXAMINER

PAINTER, BRANON C

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3635

NOTIFICATION DATE

DELIVERY MODE

12/28/2009

ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

PATDOCTC@fr.com

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/788,601	Applicant(s) KLEIN ET AL.	
	Examiner BRANON C. PAINTER	Art Unit 3635	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 November 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17,21-37,48-64,68-71,74,75,80,81 and 83 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17,21-37,48-64,68-71,74,75,80,81 and 83 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.
2. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:
 1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
 2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
 3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
 4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.
3. Claims 1-17, 21-37, 80, and 83 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brunetti et al. (6,507,278) in view of Beneke et al. (6,597,760) and Bruun et al. (6,471,039).
4. Regarding claim 1:
 - a. Brunetti discloses a screening system including:
 - i. A gateway between sterile and non-sterile areas (18, Fig. 2).
 - ii. A screening queue for the gateway (12, Fig. 1; passengers line up outside 18 and pass through 18 one at a time).
 - iii. A baggage scanner (26 and 24, Fig. 2) operable to detect the contents of baggage items, wherein the scanner includes a screening device

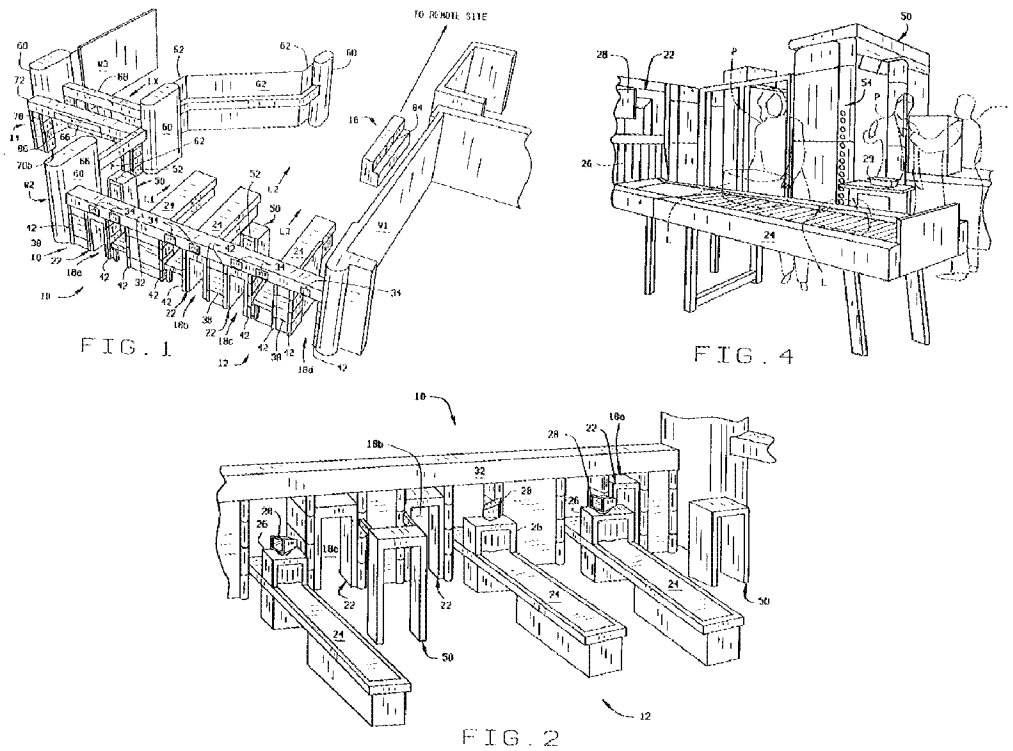
(26) and a conveyor (24) operable to convey items from the non-sterile area through the device to the sterile area.

- iv. A sidewall and support surface (side walls and support beams supporting the conveyor belt 24, Fig. 2, 4).
- b. Brunetti does not expressly disclose a tray slide in the sterile area and adjacent a portion of the baggage scanner, the tray slide and baggage scanner forming a substantially continuous path.
- c. Beneke discloses that a single conveyor path can be formed from multiple adjacent conveyor belts (2, Fig. 1).
- d. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the single conveyor belt (24) of Brunetti by producing it from two adjacent belts as taught by Beneke, in order to provide a conveyor path whose multiple belts allow for easier detection and repair of non-functioning members.
- e. The Examiner notes that, in the combination of Brunetti/Beneke, the belt closest the screening device is considered the baggage scanner conveyor, and the adjacent belt is considered the tray slide. Such a tray slide is considered external to the baggage scanner as it is a separate entity, and meets all claim limitations for the tray slide.
- f. The Examiner notes it has been held that constructing a formerly integral structure in various elements involves only routine skill in the art. *Nerwin v. Erlichman*, 168 USPQ 177, 179.

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- g. Brunetti/Beneke does not appear to expressly disclose that the tray slide conveyor belt is capable of moving in both the forward and reverse directions.
- h. Bruun teaches that it is well-known for conveyor systems to have forward and reverse directional capabilities (c. 1, 62 – c. 2, 2; c. 7, 1-4).
- i. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide the conveyor belts of Brunetti/Beneke with bi-directional capability as taught by Bruun, in order to allow suspicious luggage to be re-scanned without the need to physically move the luggage back to the beginning of the belt.
- j. Furthermore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the conveyor belts of Brunetti/Beneke such that they are capable of moving in the direction of the non-sterile area, in order to automate the tray-return process, thereby freeing security guards from this duty and allowing them to concentrate on fully securing the sterile area.
- k. The examiner notes that it is more than notoriously well-known for conveyor belts in airport security queues to operate in both the forward and reverse directions. Security guards who inspect travelers' luggage often reverse the belt in order to take a second look at a piece of luggage being scanned.

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Reproduced from Brunetti

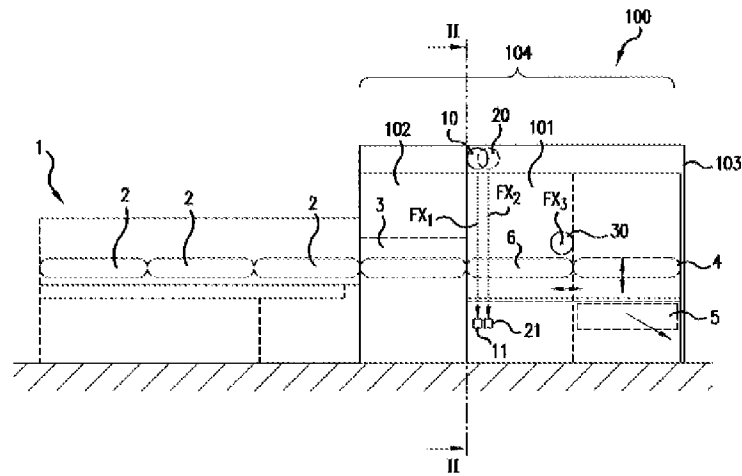


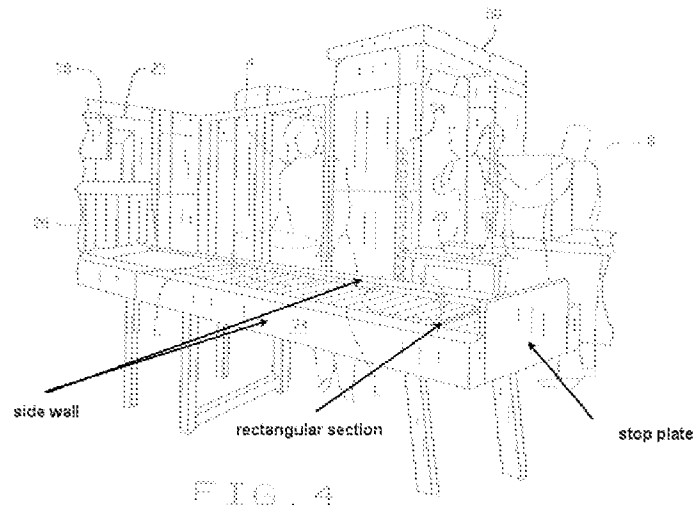
FIG. 1

Reproduced from Beneke

5. Regarding claim 2, Brunetti discloses a tray conveyance coupled to the tray slide (24, Fig. 4).

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6. Regarding claim 3, Brunetti discloses a gateway with detection apparatus (22, Fig. 2).
7. Regarding claim 4, Brunetti discloses a queue that guides from a non-sterile area to a sterile area (12, Fig. 1).
8. Regarding claims 5 and 21, Brunetti discloses a table coupled to the tray slide and disposed between the slide and the queue (26, Fig. 2).
9. Regarding claim 6, Brunetti discloses a tray slide with elevated portion (tray slide is elevated from the ground, Fig. 4).
10. Regarding claim 7, Brunetti discloses a receiving portion collocated with the elevated portion (the end of the slide, near the stop plate in Fig. 4, is considered a receiving portion since the stop plate receives trays and prevents them from sliding off the tray slide).
11. Regarding claims 8 and 15, Brunetti discloses a slide with a plurality of rectangular sections having a similar width and coupled to at least another section (gray, amended Fig. 4).
12. Regarding claim 13, Brunetti discloses a sidewall affixed to the tray slide (amended Fig. 4).



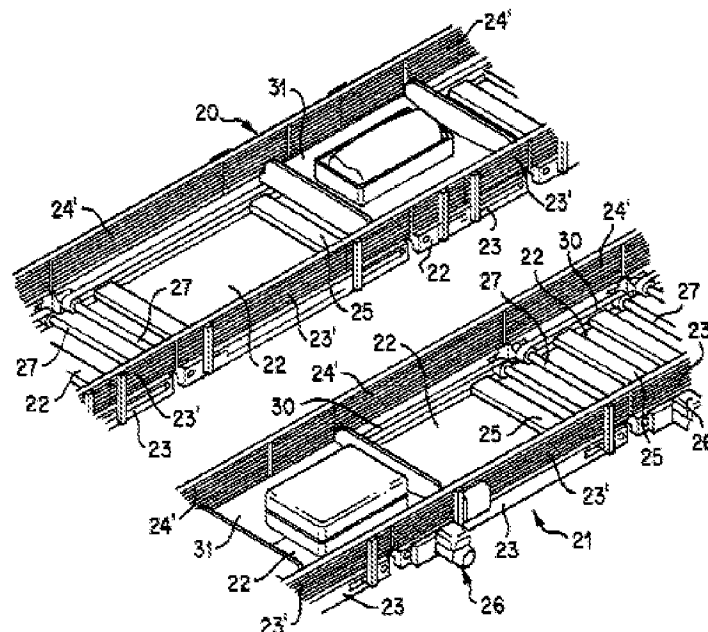
Reproduced from Brunetti (amended)

13. Regarding claim 14, Brunetti discloses two sidewalls affixed to the slide and extending substantially the entire length of the slide (amended Fig. 4).
14. Regarding claim 22, Brunetti discloses a tray slide coupled to the table and a portion of the table exposed between the tray slide and queue (26, Fig. 2).
15. Regarding claim 23, Brunetti discloses a retrieval portion distal the gateway (the portion of slide tray near stop plate is considered the retrieval portion, as that is where passengers retrieve items from their trays, amended Fig. 4).
16. Regarding claim 24, Brunetti discloses an end wall positioned at the retrieval portion (stop plate, amended Fig. 4).
17. Regarding claim 27:
 - a. Brunetti/Beneke/Bruun discloses a screening system as set forth above, including a tray slide and baggage scanner as discussed above with regard to claim 1. The examiner notes that the system disclosed above meets the limitation "baggage scanner, separate from the tray slide", since the tray slide

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and baggage scanner conveyor are two separate conveyor belts per the combination of Brunetti/Beneke above.

- b. Brunetti/Beneke/Bruun does not expressly disclose that a plurality of rollers form the support surface for the tray slide.
- c. Bruun discloses that a conveyance means for conveying trays may include a roller bed (Fig. 1).
- d. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the conveyors of Brunetti/Beneke by making them from well-known materials including rollers as taught by Bruun, in order to adhere to the standard, old, and well-known protocol for building a conveyor belt.



Reproduced from Bruun

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18. Regarding claim 28, Brunetti discloses a threshold between sterile and non-sterile areas (Fig. 2).
19. Regarding claim 29, Brunetti discloses a slide with a plurality of rectangular sections having a similar width and coupled to at least another section (gray, amended Fig. 4).
20. Regarding claim 31, Brunetti discloses a means for propelling an article from a sterile to non-sterile area (24 in reverse can transport articles this way, Fig. 4).
21. Regarding claim 34, Brunetti discloses a table coupled to the tray slide and disposed between the slide and the queue (top of 26 acts as table, Fig. 2).
22. Regarding claim 80, Brunetti discloses a tray slide operable to deliver a tray in a direction opposite the path from the sterile to non-sterile area (by reversing the direction of the conveyor belt).
23. Regarding claims 83, Brunetti discloses a tray slide (rightmost 24 and 26, Fig. 2) adjacent the baggage scanner (middle 24 and 26).
- 24. Regarding all claims, the examiner notes that claim scope is not limited by claim language that does not limit a claim to a particular structure. See MPEP 2111.04.**
25. Regarding claims 9-12:
 - a. Brunetti/Beneke/Bruun discloses a security system as set forth above.
 - b. Brunetti/Beneke/Bruun does not expressly disclose that the conveyance includes a roller bed [claim 9] comprising a plurality of wheels [claim 10] or

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cylindrical rollers rotating around their longitudinal axes [claims 11, 19], or that it includes a conveyor belt [claims 12, 20].

- c. Bruun discloses that a conveyance means for conveying trays may include a roller bed (Fig. 1) [claim 9] comprising a plurality of wheels (27) [claim 10] or cylindrical rollers rotating around their longitudinal axes (27) [claims 11, 19], or that it includes a conveyor belt (30) [claims 12, 20].
- d. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the conveyor of Brunetti by making it from well-known materials including wheels, rollers, and belts as taught by Bruun, in order to adhere to the standard, old, and well-known protocol for building a conveyor belt.

26. Regarding claim 16:

- a. Brunetti/Beneke/Bruun discloses a security system as set forth above.
- b. Brunetti/Beneke/Bruun does not expressly disclose that the tray slide sections form a curved tray slide, the curve defining a direction of travel [claim 16].
- c. Bruun discloses that it is notoriously well-known to form conveyor systems using continuous, curved belts (30). These belts form a curved tray slide sections synonymous with the conveyor system 24 of Brunetti. The belts are curved, and the top surface upon which trays and luggage sit moves in the direction of the queue, "defining the direction of travel" [claim 16].

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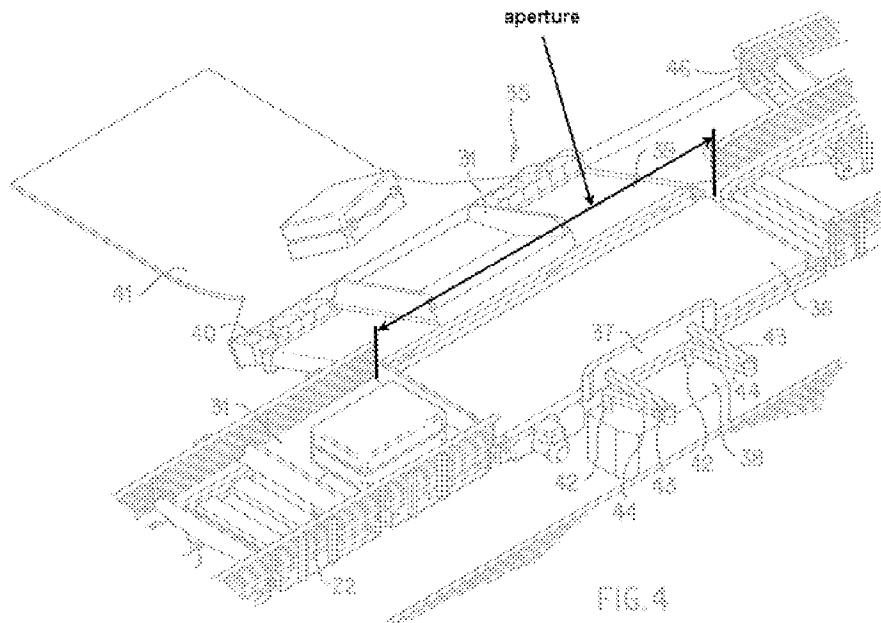
- d. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the conveyor system of Brunetti/Beneke/Bruun by making it a continuous belt loop as taught by Bruun, in order to adhere to the standard, old, and well-known protocol for building a conveyor belt.

27. Regarding claim 17, Brunetti/Beneke/Bruun as modified above further discloses a queue comprising two queues (Brunetti: 12, Fig. 1 – there is a queue in front of each gateway 18a, 18b, 18c, etc.).

28. Regarding claims 25-26:

- a. Brunetti/Beneke/Bruun discloses a security system as set forth above with respect to claim 1.
- b. Brunetti/Beneke/Bruun does not expressly disclose a tray dispenser distal the gateway [claim 25] comprising an aperture, a platform, and a support system [claim 26].
- c. Bruun discloses a retrieval portion (39, Fig. 4) [claim 23], a tray dispenser distal the gateway (Fig. 4) [claim 25] comprising an aperture (amended Fig. 4), a platform (46), and a support system (the bars/beams supporting platforms 39 and 46) [claim 26].
- d. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the screening system of Brunetti/Beneke/Bruun by adding a tray dispenser portion as taught by

Bruun, in order to provide a means (46) to automate the return of the tray to the beginning of the queue.



Reproduced from Bruun (amended)

29. Regarding claims 30-33 and 35-37:

- a. Brunetti/Beneke/Bruun discloses a security system as set forth above in claim 27.
- b. Brunetti/Beneke/Bruun does not expressly disclose that the tray slide has an elevated and non-elevated portion, the elevation providing objects thereon with potential energy [claim 30], means for propelling the article from a sterile to non-sterile area [claim 31] comprising an elevated portion [claim 32], the means including a plurality of rollers with drive mechanism and a belt disposed therearound [claim 33], a tray dispenser [claims 35-36] comprising an aperture, a platform, and a support system [claim 37], or a retrieval

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portion located at a portion of the tray slide distal from the detection device [claim 35].

- c. Bruun discloses a tray slide with an elevated (36) and non-elevated (39) portion, the elevation providing objects thereon with potential energy [claim 30], means for propelling the article from a sterile to non-sterile area (39 and height difference between 36, 39) [claim 31] comprising an elevated portion (36) [claim 32], the means including a plurality of rollers (27) with drive mechanism and a belt disposed therearound (30) [claim 33], a tray dispenser [claims 35-36] comprising an aperture (amended Fig. 4), a platform (46), and a support system (the bars/beams supporting platforms 39 and 46) [claim 37], and a retrieval portion (41) located at a portion of the tray slide distal from the detection device [claim 35].
- d. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the screening system of Brunetti/Beneke/Bruun by adding a tray retrieval mechanism incorporating height differentials and conveyor belts as taught by Bruun, in order to provide a means (46) to automate the return of the tray to the beginning of the queue.

30. Claims 48-64, 68-71, 74, 75, and 81 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brunetti et al. (6,507,278) in view of Sullivan (3,695,462).

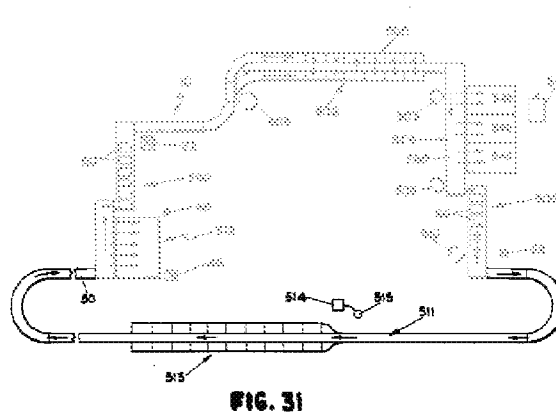
31. Regarding claim 48:

- a. Brunetti discloses a screening system including:
 - i. A gateway between sterile and non-sterile areas (18, Fig. 2).
 - ii. A screening queue for the gateway, at least a portion of which is disposed in the non-sterile area (12, Fig. 1; passengers line up outside 18 and pass through 18 one at a time).
 - iii. A baggage scanner (26 and 24, Fig. 2) operable to detect the contents of baggage items, wherein the scanner includes a screening device (26) and a conveyor (24) operable to convey items from the non-sterile area through the device to the sterile area.
 - iv. A sidewall and support surface (side walls and support beams supporting the conveyor belt 24, Fig. 2, 4).
- b. Brunetti does not expressly disclose a separate tray slide including a conveyance and support surface disposed immediately adjacent the baggage scanner and capable of delivering a tray from the sterile to the non-sterile area without passing through a screening device.
- c. Sullivan discloses a tray slide with a tray conveyance that is capable of delivering a tray from the sterile to non-sterile area without passing through a screening device (511, Fig. 31).
- d. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the system of Brunetti by adding a tray slide as taught by Sullivan, with each end being immediately adjacent a respective end of the baggage scanner, in order to allow used trays to be conveyed

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from the end point of the scanner back to the beginning, automating the tray-return process and thereby freeing security guards from such duty and allowing them to concentrate on fully securing the sterile area.

- e. The examiner notes that Sullivan does not expressly disclose the details of how his conveyor is supported. However, Brunetti discloses a support structure for conveyor belts, and using the same type of support structure for the Sullivan belt would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art in order to ensure the belt systems were level with one another to allow continuous flow of trays, and to provide a consistent, uniform support system for all conveyor belts.

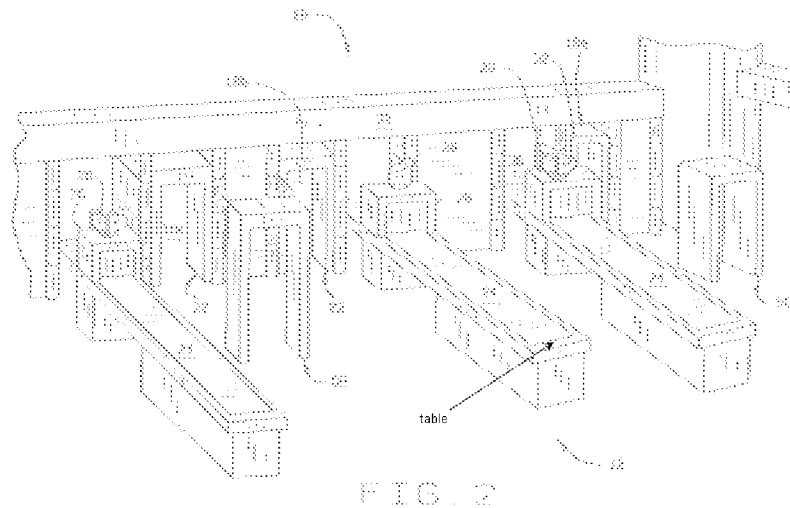


Reproduced from Sullivan

32. Regarding claim 49, Brunetti/Sullivan as modified above discloses a screening system with tray slide, with the combination further disclosing a sidewall coupled to the tray slide (B: side walls and support beams supporting the conveyor belt 24, Fig. 2, 4).

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33. Regarding claim 50, Brunetti/Sullivan as modified above discloses a screening system with tray slide, with Brunetti further disclosing a gateway with detection apparatus (22, Fig. 2).
34. Regarding claim 51, Brunetti/Sullivan as modified above discloses a screening system with tray slide, with Brunetti further disclosing a queue that guides from a non-sterile area to a sterile area (12, Fig. 1).
35. Regarding claims 52 and 68, Brunetti/Sullivan as modified above discloses a screening system with tray slide, with the combination further disclosing a tray slide coupled to a table between it and the screening queue (the tray slide of Sullivan couples to the table, amended Fig. 2).



Reproduced from Brunetti (amended)

36. Regarding claim 53, Brunetti/Sullivan as modified above discloses a screening system with tray slide, with Sullivan further disclosing a tray slide with elevated portion (slide is elevated from floor).

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37. Regarding claim 54, Brunetti/Sullivan as modified above discloses a screening system with tray slide, with Sullivan further disclosing a receiving portion capable of receiving trays and collocated with the elevated portion (513).
38. Regarding claim 55, Brunetti/Sullivan as modified above discloses a screening system with tray slide, with Sullivan further disclosing plural tray slide sections, each having a similar width and coupled to each other (Fig. 31).
39. Regarding claims 56-59, Brunetti/Sullivan as modified above discloses a screening system with tray slide, with Sullivan further disclosing a conveyance comprising a roller bed [claim 56] including a plurality of wheels [claim 57] or cylindrical rollers [claim 58] (Fig. 19), or belts [claim 59] (c. 4, 6-9).
40. Regarding claims 60 and 61, Brunetti/Sullivan as modified above discloses a screening system with tray slide, with the combination further disclosing one [claim 60] or two [claim 61] sidewalls affixed to the tray slide (Brunetti amended Fig. 4).
41. Regarding claim 62, Brunetti/Sullivan as modified above discloses a screening system with tray slide, with Sullivan further disclosing a plurality of rectangular slide sections with substantially similar dimensions (50, 511, Fig. 31; the width dimensions are substantially similar).
42. Regarding claim 63, Brunetti/Sullivan as modified above discloses a screening system with tray slide, with Sullivan further disclosing a curved tray slide defining a direction of travel (Fig. 31).
43. Regarding claim 64, Brunetti/Sullivan as modified above discloses a screening system with tray slide, with Brunetti further disclosing a queue comprising two

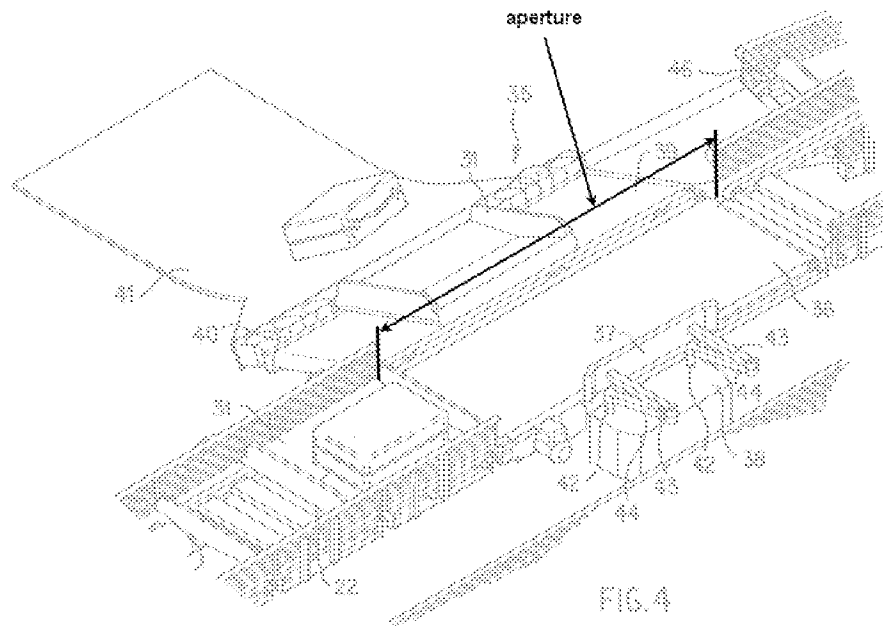
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queues (Brunetti: 12, Fig. 1 – there is a queue in front of each gateway 18a, 18b, 18c, etc.).

44. Regarding claim 69, Brunetti/Sullivan as modified above discloses a screening system with tray slide, with the combination further disclosing the tray slide coupled to the table with a portion of table exposed (amended Fig. 2).
45. Regarding claim 70, Brunetti/Sullivan as modified above discloses a screening system with tray slide, with Sullivan further disclosing a retrieval portion distal the gateway (the portion of the slide closest the table).
46. Regarding claims 71 and 74, Brunetti/Sullivan as modified above discloses a screening system with tray slide, with Brunetti further disclosing an end wall [claim 71] or tray stop [claim 74] at the retrieval portion (stop plate separating slide from table, amended Fig. 4).
47. Regarding claim 75, Brunetti/Sullivan as modified above discloses a screening system with tray slide, with Sullivan further disclosing a tray slide forming a continuous loop (Fig. 31).
48. Regarding claim 81, Brunetti/Sullivan as modified above discloses a screening system with tray slide, with Sullivan further disclosing a tray slide capable of delivering the tray opposite a path from the non-sterile to sterile area (Fig. 31).
49. Claims 72 and 73 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brunetti/Sullivan as applied to claims 48-64, 68-71, 74, 75, and 81 above, and further in view of Bruun (6,471,039).

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- a. Brunetti/Sullivan discloses a screening system with tray slide as set forth above.
- b. Brunetti/Sullivan does not expressly disclose a tray dispenser distal the gateway [claims 25, 72] comprising an aperture, a platform, and a support system [claims 26, 73].
- c. Bruun discloses a retrieval portion (39, Fig. 4) [claim 23, 70], a tray dispenser distal the gateway (Fig. 4) [claims 25, 72] comprising an aperture (amended Fig. 4), a platform (46), and a support system (the bars/beams supporting platforms 39 and 46) [claims 26, 73].
- d. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the screening system of Brunetti/Beneke/Bruun by adding a tray dispenser portion as taught by Bruun, in order to provide a means (46) to automate the return of the tray to the beginning of the queue.



Reproduced from Bruun (amended)

Response to Arguments

50. Applicant's arguments filed 11/13/09 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.
51. Applicant argues that Brunetti/Beneke/Bruun does not disclose a tray slide external the baggage scanner. However, Brunetti/Beneke provides that the conveyor of Brunetti (24) be made of two separate, adjacent conveyor belts (see Beneke Fig. 1). Of these two belts, the one closest screening device 26 is considered the conveyor, and the one closest the edge is considered the tray slide. The baggage scanner members are grouped together, and the adjacent tray slide belt is external the baggage scanner. The two belts form a continuous path.
52. Applicant argues the placement of sterile and non-sterile areas in Brunetti/Beneke/Bruun. At least Figs. 1 and 5 show the sterile area to be the same

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side with the belts (24) and secondary screening (50). See, for instance, the traffic flow patterns of Fig. 5.

53. Applicant argues that the tray slide of Brunetti/Beneke/Bruun is not separate from the baggage scanner. However, Brunetti/Beneke provides that the conveyor of Brunetti (24) be made of two separate, adjacent conveyor belts (see Beneke Fig. 1). Of these two belts, the one closest screening device 26 is considered the conveyor, and the one closest the edge is considered the tray slide. The baggage scanner members are grouped together, and the adjacent tray slide belt is external the baggage scanner. The two belts form a continuous path.
54. Applicant argues that Brunetti/Beneke/Bruun does not disclose a tray slide capable of delivery from a sterile to non-sterile area. Reversing the direction of a conveyor belt is notoriously well-known, a fundamental capability of any belt, and is taught by Bruun. Such a reversal of the conveyor and tray slide belts would reverse the direction of the tray and send it from the sterile to non-sterile area.
55. Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 48 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to BRANON C. PAINTER whose telephone number is (571)270-3110. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 7:30AM-5:00PM, alternate Fridays off.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rich Chilcot can be reached on (571) 272-6777. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Branon Painter
Examiner
Art Unit 3633

/Basil Katcheves/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3635